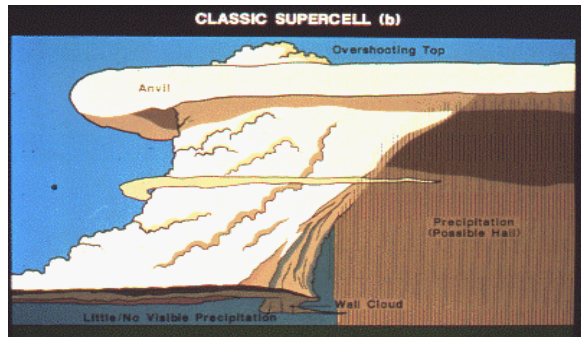


Thunderstorms



Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Severe Thunderstorms are possible in your area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe thunderstorms are occurring.

Facts

- ⚡ Thunderstorms can produce five basic kinds of severe weather hazards: tornadoes, strong straight-line winds, lightning, flash flood producing rains, and large damaging hail.
- ⚡ The National Weather Service issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings for two types of weather events: when they are highly imminent, or they are already occurring.
- ⚡ Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are classified as having hail stones $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or more in diameter, and/or straight-line wind gusts of 58 mph or higher (or implied by tree/structural damage.)

Lightning

Lightning Safety

- ⚡ Go inside a building or all-metal vehicle.
- ⚡ Avoid water (swimming pools, lakes and rivers), beaches and boats.
- ⚡ Stay away from doors, windows, metal indoor fixtures and electrical devices.
- ⚡ Stay off the telephone.
- ⚡ Avoid open high ground and isolated large trees.
- ⚡ Do not lean on vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.
- ⚡ Use the 30-30 rule for outdoor activity.

The 30-30 Rule

30 Seconds: Count the seconds between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, then the lightning is close enough to be a threat. Seek shelter immediately.

30 Minutes: After seeing the last lightning flash, wait 30 minutes before leaving shelter. More than half of lightning deaths occur after the thunderstorm has passed. Stay in a safe area until you are sure the threat has passed.

Lightning Facts

- ⚡ All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.
- ⚡ Wisconsin averages over 30 days each year with thunderstorms.
- ⚡ Lightning bolts can travel 20 miles before striking the ground.
- ⚡ Most lightning deaths occur when people are caught outdoors.
- ⚡ Lightning often strikes as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- ⚡ High winds, rainfall, and a darkening cloud cover are the warning signs for possible cloud-to-ground lightning strikes.